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February 23, 1962 - Friday

Amos Peaslee came to see me this morning. His wife and he are here for a short time before going on to the African Gold Coast, where he expects to fish for tarpin. He is 75, but continues in abounding health and spirits. Since I first knew him, when I served under him in Europe in the first World War in the courier service, he has accepted from time to time government positions, including that of Ambassador to Australia, where as an intimate friend of Prime Minister Menzies he was especially influential. He is a wonderful fellow.

We had our usual large noon staff meeting. The go-around the table elicits all sorts of odds and ends of information from participants that otherwise would not come to our collective attention.

Bob Estabrook, of the Washington Post, lunched with me at home today. He has just returned here, after a long trip to Portugal and Mozambique Angola. He said he has revised many of his former ideas about granting self-rule to the natives of Angola. He thinks it will be a long time before they would be capable of governing themselves in an effective manner. His articles for the Post, of which I have seen one or two, reflected this viewpoint. However, Newsweek, owned by the Post, has just published excerpts from these articles and his diary, giving a radically different impression from that conveyed in his newspaper writing. He is furious over what he considers a gross distortion of his findings. He says it has embarrassed him with the US official representatives who furthered his researches, with the Portuguese authorities, and with the natives who cooperated with him.

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Stefan Zamoyski came to see me this afternoon, to deliver a letter from General Anders to the President, advising a formal endorsement by the U.S. and Great Britain of the Western frontiers of Poland as defined at Potsdam in 1945. The letter is in these terms:

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I gave a lunch in our Chancery dining room for a group of British Diplomatic newspaper correspondents, including

Moshin Ali, Diplomatic Correspondent, Reuters
Richard Scott, Diplomatic Correspondent, The Guardian
Nicholas Carroll, Diplomatic Correspondent, Sunday Times
Thomas Barman, Diplomatic Correspondent, The BBC
John Dickie, Diplomatic Correspondent, Daily Mail
Wilfred Sendall, Sunday Express (Lobby Correspondent, who writes "Cross-Bencher" column)

I hope they enjoyed our talk as much as I did.

Bill Burdett ~~had~~ called me from Washington last night, to say there was impatience in the highest quarters over no answer having been received from the Foreign Secretary to Secretary Rusk's message to him about the situation in British Guiana. I went to see Lord Home this afternoon. He gave me a copy of his reply last night to the Rusk message. His response was polite, but cold as the Arctic. We had a relaxed chat about this and other problems.

Tonight we gave a dinner at home for ~~the Schlesingers, having as guests:~~

Earl and Countess of Longford
Hon. Michael and Lady Pamela Berry
Hon. David and Mrs. Astor
Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Gaitskell
Mr. and Mrs. Schlesinger
Mrs. McBaine
Mr. John Foster

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In connection with our own remarks about greeting visitors, I have now received from Cecil Lyon the comments of the Embassy in Paris on this subject. We have already been told by Washington to continue our present procedures, and I dare say Paris will be accorded the same treatment.

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demands are disturbing to the foreign interests involved. Bridgeman has been discussing this matter with British officials, but will, for the time being, continue negotiations at a private level.

The Ballet, "Giselle", was a tremendous success. The house was jammed. The experts say it is the first time that Margot Fonteyn has ever had an adequate partner in this role. In this instance it was Rudolf Nureyev, the defector from the Soviet Ballet. It would be impossible to exaggerate the gracefulness and skill of the performance by both of them. She is a universal favorite with British audiences, which is readily understandable, since in addition to her spectacular talents, she is a charming woman and personality. One of our companions had lately thought to flatter Nureyev by saying he expected to see him become as famous as Nijinsky. Nureyev, who is only 20 or 21 years old, replied, "Poor Nijinsky." The Russian is a splendid looking fellow, as well as a superb dancer. At the conclusion of the show, it seemed as if the applause would never cease. It must have gone on for at least twenty minutes, with heaven knows how many curtain calls.

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As on previous occasions, we had supper between the acts in the little salon back of the Royal Box. The famous choreographer and ballerina, Ninette de Valois, came in and talked to us. She has had a remarkable record, having been the founder and director of the original Sadler's Wells company.

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I saw Wainwright Abbott in the course of the day. He retired from the Service years ago, and he and Alice bought a house in Dublin, where they live. He said there is a strong rumor circulating in Ireland that our present Ambassador, Stockdale, is soon to be replaced by Matt McCloskey, the contractor who for a long time has been, and perhaps still is, Treasurer of the Democratic National Committee.

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of the balance of power on the European Continent.

~~Actually,~~ After 1914, the American people, slowly but surely, ~~had~~ came ~~come~~ to realize that the conquest of Britain and France by the Germans would result in a disequilibrium in the European power balance disastrous to us. Additionally, the sympathies of our people were, in major degree, favorable to the Western allies.

The enthusiasm with which the citizens of the United States had entered the First World War did not long survive its termination. The ambitious project of Woodrow Wilson for a League of Nations to secure permanent peace was killed by political objections in the United States Senate. Many of its supporters remained faithful to it, but as unprecedentedly prosperous conditions began to prevail throughout our country the mass of politicians and people sank back into the comforting arms of isolationism.

Armaments, bases, and alliances were forgotten. Our army, navy, and air force were reduced to almost skeleton extent compared with their wartime plenitude.

When the disturbing events of the 1930s occurred, such as Hitler's rise to power, Japanese actions in Manchuria, Italian aggression in Ethiopia, the Spanish Civil War, no popular demand for participation by the United States Government in consultations over these crises attained pressure proportions.

In fact, it was the fall of France and the Blitz of Britain that alarmed us finally about our own security.

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The fun only commenced when the meeting was thrown open for questions. There must have been two or three hundred people there. The rule is that only one question can be asked by an individual. The speaker responds at whatever length he wishes, and then cannot be subjected to cross examination. The interrogations were, without exception, hostile. Many of them were directed to nuclear testing, the culpability of the U.S. in connection with the arms race, our conduct in Cuba, our exploitation of Latin America, our aggressive intentions toward the Soviet Union, and, in fact, our general incompetence and bad policies everywhere, including, of course, our failure to recognize Communist China. I answered as best I could, and the great majority of the audience were on my side. There was quite a lot of clapping and laughter throughout. It seemed evident to me that the interrogators were on the fringe. Afterwards, we adjourned to Trinity College, where we had coffee and ere was more interrogation, but this time, informal and from friendly sources.

I enjoyed the evening. The proceedings at the meeting were marked by no discourtesy whatever, in spite of the questions being so pointed and unfriendly. I imagine it is usually the habit on such occasions to give full reign to those who are going to be adverse to the speaker's point of view.

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March 3, 1962 - Saturday

I arrived back by train in London this morning just in time to go for lunch with E at Fred Warner's flat in The Albany. Loelia Westminster was the other guest. Fred is an extraordinarily good raconteur, and one of the best experts in the Foreign Office. The Albany apartments are, to my mind, the most attractive in London. Since the ground is now fabulously valuable, attempts have been made from time to time to transform or replace the existing structures. Happily, they

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African groundnuts region. This fungus, which could be present in any peanuts, seems to flourish in East Africa, and result in the natives having the highest rate of cancer of the liver in the world.

I lunched at the Garrick Club with Drew Middleton. We had huge dishes of oysters, and the best of English roast beef.

This afternoon, I called on Dr. Don Hector Garcia Godoy, Ambassador of the Dominican Republic, at Princes Gate. I always see him at the Latin American Ambassadors meetings, but could not call on him during the period when we had no Ambassador at his capital. He has not himself been home for six years. I have always found him agreeable, and he has an attractive personality. He is now 40, was educated in Washington, D. C., and at the University of Santo Domingo, of which he is a law graduate. He started in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1942, then served in Costa Rica and Nicaragua before becoming successively Secretary-General of the Dominican Republic's Reserve Bank, and later Vice-Governor of the Central Bank. He came here from Belgium, where he was Ambassador. His wife's father served as Ambassador in London from 1945 to 1949.

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This evening I had a number of American journalists for drinks.

Yale Newman, American Broadcasting Co.
Louis R. Rukeyser, Baltimore Sun
Arthur Veysey, Chicago Tribune Press Service
John Shinn, McGraw-Hill World News
Peter Webb, Newsweek
Tom Lambert, New York Herald Tribune
Drew Middleton, New York Times
Robert T. Elson, Time Magazine
Joseph Fromm, U. S. News and World Report
Raymond Vicker, Wall Street Journal
Roderick Macleish, Westinghouse Broadcasting Co.

Mr. Clark, Mr. Beale, and Mr. Pettus, from the Embassy.

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capital city. There is much drunkenness in the native Army, and the soldiers cannot presently be relied upon to preserve order.

Tonight, E and I went to the Television Centre of the BBC, as guests of Carleton Greene and his wife. The Lewis Joneses and William Clarks were there, as well as Sir Beresford and Lady Clark, and Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Adam, the former Director of television broadcasting.

Architecturally, the Centre is the finest modern building I have seen in London, ingeniously planned, and in parts quite beautiful. One of its features is an extraordinary floating stairway, which runs from top to bottom of the building. We went through many of the studios, as well as visiting the carpentry shops, warehouses, and other working quarters. Finally, we sat down to a particularly good dinner and conversation. With the extraordinary new devices, electronic and otherwise, used for television, it was almost as if one had passed a couple of hours in a different world.

March 21, 1962 - Wednesday

Averell is still out East, and I sent him a telegram about my conversation with Harold Caccia regarding the now abandoned idea of the Chinese Communists and British exchanging Ambassadors.

I took Sasha out this morning and bought her a cashmere set as a birthday present. Then she lunched with me at the office.

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This afternoon I called on the Burmese Ambassador, Thado Thiri Thudhamma U Hla Maung, at 19A Charles Street.

Daniel Minchew, President of the American Students Club at Oxford, came to ask me to address his organization. I accepted to do so next month. He is an attractive Georgian.

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